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UNCLAS ROME 004208

SIPDIS

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

STATE FOR A/S PRM DEWEY AND IO/D  
USAID FOR DCHA/FFP, DCHA/OFDA AND PPC  
USDA/FAS FOR MCHAMBLISS/RTILSWORTH  
GENEVA FOR NKYLOH/USAID  
USUN FOR LSHESTACK  
NSC FOR JDWORKEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREF](#) [AORC](#) [EU](#) [EAGR](#) [WFP](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: WFP ACTIONS TO PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE AND  
EXPLOITATION OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED CHILDREN

REF: (A) GENEVA 2742, (B) STATE 136848, (C) STATE 146665

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SUMMARY  
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1. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) IS ACTIVELY IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNICEF-OCHA TASK FORCE ON PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES, AS AGREED TO BY THE UN INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE (IASC) ON JUNE 20. A WFP-INTERNAL ACTION PLAN HAS BEEN FINALIZED, WHICH WILL OPERATIONALIZE IN STAGES THE IASC SIX CORE PRINCIPLES. IN GUINEA, WFP AND ITS UN PARTNER AGENCIES HAVE ALREADY PROMULGATED A CODE OF CONDUCT, THE TEXT OF WHICH IS TRANSCRIBED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

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WFP ACTIONS TO DATE  
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2. WFP HAS PARTICIPATED IN ALL OCHA-UNICEF TASK FORCE MEETINGS ON THIS ISSUE, INCLUDING THE CHAIRING OF A WORKING GROUP DEALING WITH ASSISTANCE DELIVERY MECHANISMS (SUCH AS RATION CARDS AND ENTITLEMENTS).

3. A WFP-SPECIFIC PLAN OF ACTION HAS BEEN FINALIZED WHICH INCORPORATES ALL SIX OF THE IASC CORE PRINCIPLES INTO A CODE OF CONDUCT, AFFIRMING THAT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE A DUTY OF CARE TO BENEFICIARIES AND A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT BENEFICIARIES ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. THE WFP PLAN DELINEATES WFP IN-HOUSE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON EACH OF THE CORE PRINCIPLES.

5. IN ITS PLAN OF ACTION, WFP AFFIRMS A CLEAR ZERO-TOLERANCE TOWARDS ABUSERS. EXISTING DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR WHEN VIOLATIONS OF THE CORE PRINCIPLES OCCUR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING INCORPORATED INTO STAFF RULES AND REGULATIONS.

6. WFP/GUINEA HAS, ALONG WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES IN GUINEA, ADOPTED A CODE OF CONDUCT THAT INCLUDES THE IASC CORE PRINCIPLES.

7. THE TEXT OF THE WFP/UN GUINEA CODE OF CONDUCT IS TRANSMITTED HERewith. BEGIN TEXT.

"CODE OF CONDUCT FOR HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT STAFF IN GUINEA - AS INDIVIDUALS SERVING OR EMPLOYED BY A HUMANITARIAN OR DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION WORKING IN GUINEA WE ARE BOUND TO UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAWS AND UN CONVENTIONS, ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, TREATIES AND COVENANTS GOVERNING OUR WORK. WE ARE ALSO BOUND TO FOLLOW STAFF RULES AND CODES OF CONDUCT GUIDING STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH WE WORK.

-WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE WILL BE PUNISHED ACCORDINGLY FOR ANY ABUSES OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT OR ANY OTHER ILLEGAL ACTS COMMITTED. SPECIFICALLY, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE BY HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT WORKERS CONSTITUTE ACTS OF GROSS MISCONDUCT AND WILL RESULT IN TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT.

ARTICLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

-WE WILL RESPECT THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF SEX, RACE, RELIGION OR LANGUAGE ACTING WITH IMPARTIALITY, INTEGRITY AND TACT IN ALL THAT WE DO.

-WE WILL ENSURE THAT OUR PERSONAL CONDUCT AND ACTIONS ARE IN LINE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LAWS, UN CONVENTIONS, TREATIES AND COVENANTS GOVERNING OUR WORK.

-WE WILL UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF ALL CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND ENSURE THAT THEIR BEST INTERESTS ARE ALWAYS HELD PARAMOUNT.

-WE WILL RESPECT THE NATIONAL LAW AND LOCAL CULTURE, TRADITIONS, RELIGIONS, CUSTOMS AND PRACTICES THAT ARE IN

ACCORDANCE WITH THE UN CONVENTIONS, TREATIES AND COVENANTS.  
-WE WILL NOT BE ABUSIVE OR DISCOURTEOUS TO ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC OR BENEFICIARIES.  
-WE WILL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF EFFICIENCY, COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY.

#### ARTICLE II: SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

-WE WILL DISCOURAGE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE AND PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT. WHEN IN A MANAGEMENT POSITION, WE WILL ACCEPT ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO SUPPORT AND DEVELOP SYSTEMS THAT MAINTAIN THIS ENVIRONMENT.  
-WE WILL NEVER USE THE OFFICE OR KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS FOR PRIVATE GAIN INCLUDING ACCEPTING GIFTS OR SEXUAL FAVORS FOR THE PROVISIONS OF SERVICES OR SUPPLIES THAT ARE BEING PROVIDED BY MY AGENCY, OFFERING JOBS, OR GIVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.  
-WE WILL NEVER PHYSICALLY, SEXUALLY, OR PSYCHOLOGICALLY HARM INDIVIDUALS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN.  
-WE WILL NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18, REGARDLESS OF THE AGE OF MAJORITY OR AGE OF CONSENT LOCALLY. MISTAKEN BELIEF IN THE AGE OF THE CHILD IS NOT A DEFENSE.  
-WE WILL NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH DIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF ANY AGE OR SEX.  
-WE WILL NOT BE ACCOMPLICES TO OR PARTY TO ANY FORM OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR ABUSE.

#### ARTICLE III: DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

-WE WILL NOT WORK UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS, CONSUME ALCOHOL OR DRUGS AT THE WORKPLACE, OR OPERATE THE ORGANIZATION'S EQUIPMENT OR VEHICLES UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS.

#### ARTICLE IV: USE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

-WE WILL NEVER EXCHANGE ASSISTANCE THAT IS DUE TO BENEFICIARIES FOR GIFTS, FAVORS OR ANY KIND OF REMUNERATION FROM ANY SOURCES.  
-WE WILL PROPERLY ACCOUNT AND CARE FOR ALL MONEY, EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY ASSIGNED TO US BY OUR ORGANIZATION.  
-WE WILL EXERCISE THE UTMOST DISCRETION IN HANDLING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND MATTERS OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

#### SIPDIS

-WE WILL NOT ALTER, DESTROY, OR MISPLACE ANY OFFICIAL DOCUMENT, RECORD OR FILE ENTRUSTED TO US.

#### ARTICLE V: ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

-WE WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE ONLY TO OUR ORGANIZATION.  
-WE WILL REPORT IMMEDIATELY ANY BREACHES TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT, ACTS OR CONCERNS OF EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE BY A HUMANITARIAN OR DEVELOPMENT WORKER TO THE HEAD OF AGENCY OR SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE AT FIELD LEVEL OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH WE ARE WORKING.  
-WE WILL NEVER MISREPRESENT OUR FUNCTIONS, TITLES OR DUTIES.

#### ARTICLE VI: AWARDS, HONORS, REMUNERATION

-WE WILL NOT ACCEPT HONORS, DECORATION, FAVOR, SEXUAL FAVORS, GIFTS OR REMUNERATION FROM ANY SOURCE OTHER THAN THE ORGANIZATION WE WORK FOR, OTHER THAN GIFTS SYMBOLIC IN NATURE, EXCEPT WHEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE ORGANIZATION.

#### ARTICLE VII: OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

-WE WILL NOT ENGAGE IN OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT, PAID OR VOLUNTEER, WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF MY AGENCY.  
-WE WILL ENSURE THAT OUR PERSONAL VIEWS AND INTERESTS DO NOT UNDERMINE THOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION WE SERVE.  
-WE WILL NEVER ALLOW PERSONAL POLITICAL OPINIONS TO INTERFERE WITH OUR WORK OR THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH WE WORK.

#### ARTICLE VIII: TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATIVE EMPLOYMENT

-WE WILL NEVER TRAFFIC IN PEOPLE, ILLEGAL OR NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, ARTIFACTS, PRECIOUS METALS OR STONES OR FIREARMS. WE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE RESALE OF ANY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN TRAFFICKED.  
-WE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPLOITATIVE EMPLOYMENT OF ANY PERSON."

END TEXT OF UN GUINEA CODE OF CONDUCT.

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COMMENT  
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UNICEF IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION ON A PILOT BASIS ON  
JOINT STAFF TRAINING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON UN  
TRAINING MODULES RELATED TO THE IASC CORE PRINCIPLES. COST  
EFFECTIVENESS OF INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION RELATED TO  
TRAINING IS AN EVIDENT PLUS. AND, AS A KEY MEMBER OF THE WFP  
EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO  
REQUESTING PERIODIC PROGRESS REPORTS (COMMENCING IN OCTOBER  
2002) RELATED TO FIELD LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION OF WFP'S NOW IN-  
PLACE ACTION PLAN.